CHARITIES.

PART IV.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PUBLICK CHARITIES.

"But lasting Charity's more ample sway,
"Nor bound by time, nor subject to decay,
"In happy triumph shall for ever live." PRIOR.

CHARITY and benevolence, those divine attributes, which distinguish this kingdom throughout the world, have ever been conspicuous in Limerick. Here meek-eyed humanity with a generous hand, alleviates the weight of human misery. Here have these godlike virtues fixed their abode, and fill the minds of the truly compassionate, towards the relief of the real indigent, infirm, and necessitous, as will appear by the following lift.

DOCTOR HALL'S ALMS HOUSE,

OPPOSITE the Parade in Limerick, was founded by Dr. Jeremy Hall Civilian,† who appropriated certain ground rents in said city to answer and support the following purposes for ever; viz.

Ee z

† We find this gentleman's name in the Common Council of Limerick, in 1687; see Appendix, No. 3.
For a certain number of aged poor men unmarried, five pounds per annum, to be paid by Quarterly payments besides the use of a room; which number is now thirteen.

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<th>£</th>
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<tr>
<td>65</td>
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For a certain number of aged poor women, which is now increased to twelve, at five pounds per annum.

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For a school-master for instructing twenty boys in reading, writing and arithmetick.

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For a school-mistress for teaching twenty girls to read, &c.

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These Children are received by the master and mistress by certificate, as the children of poor protestant parents; and after remaining in the schools a certain number of years, are regularly apprenticed to trades and their apprentice fees paid by the Receiver of this Charity, two guineas to each.

For supplying the schools with books and paper.

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For a clergyman to attend the chapel of said House, &c.

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<th>£</th>
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For
CHARITIES

For a steward to receive the rents, keep the accounts, make quarterly payments to the people, and provide all necessaries requisite.

For keeping the charity-house in repair.

For releasing debtors out of jail.

He also bequeathed a sum of two hundred pounds to be given in small sums to young men, out of their apprenticeship, interest free for three years, on giving sufficient security for the repayment of the principal sum, at the expiration of said term.

He further appointed by his Will certain Trustees, and committed to them, his estate in the said city, for the purposes and uses aforesaid: And the lord bishop, the dean, the mayor, the recorder, and the sheriffs of said city, for the time being, to be overseers of his said Will.

It appears this charity has been so well conducted, that, though the income in 1733, was only sufficient to pay eight men, and eight women, besides answering the other appointment by the Will, yet it has gradually increased, so that a new house was built in the year 1761, at the expense of upwards of five hundred pounds, for the reception of poor men and women, and for apartments for the school-master and school-mistress, and a chapel, where the clergyman reads prayers twice a week.
There are now established in this house thirteen poor men, and twelve poor women, who are regularly paid their quarterly payments.

The Corporation Alms House,

Is built on the ground, whereon St. Nicholas’s church formerly stood, and when that parish was united to St. Mary’s, this house was erected soon after the capitulation of Limerick, for the use of twenty reduced widows, to each of whom forty shillings is paid annually. The dean has the right of nominating two of the widows, who are intitled to the two rooms fronting the street, and to a garden in the rear. Sir Standish Hartstonge, and his lady, contributed one hundred pounds to this institution, and had the nomination of six poor men, who formerly had apartments in this house. The corporation also pays eight pounds annually, to each of the aldermen’s widows, and five pounds annually, to each of the burgesses widows.

The Blue School,

The education of poor children has ever been held of great consequence, by rendering them useful members of society. The benefits arising from it are so numerous, we consider this as a most useful charity. Mrs. Craver and Dr. Hall will never be forgotten in Limerick, while any gratitude remains in the hearts of those who daily partake of their bounty.

By an inquiry made in the house of lords in the year 1774, it appeared that the rev. John Moore
Moore of the city of Limerick, had in 1717, bequeathed the house in Smithfield, Dublin, called the White Hart, for the use of a Charity School in Limerick. * In the year 1721, an order of the Common Council was made, granting twenty pounds per annum for a charity school. And in the year 1724, Mrs. Alice Craven conveyed some houses in Limerick, the rent of which amounted to forty pounds per annum, to the bishop, dean, mayor, recorder, and their successors, in trust for the Blue School, which she afterwards confirmed by her will. It was however suffered to go to decay in the year 1748, but revived in the year 1772, by bishop Gore, and dean Crosbie, the patrons and promoters of every useful charity.

Twenty boys are taught to read, write, keep accounts, and to sing in the cathedral. They are clothed annually in an uniform dress of blue and yellow, and in due time bound apprentice to tradesmen, with a fee of four pounds to each. It is not doubted but the donations and subscriptions of a generous publick, will give strength and permanency to this excellent institution.

The old Blue School was situated near the Island gate. The new building, which contains a good school room, and house for the master, is joined to the northern wall of the cathedral church. It was begun in August 1771, and finished the year following, in the space of six months, with the following inscription on the end fronting the main street.

* This concern is now let at seventeen pounds per annum, which is paid for the use of the Blue School in Limerick.
"The Charity Blue School, revived A. D. 1772. By order of the trustees."

"Right rev. Doctor William Gore, lord bishop.
Hon. and rev. Doctor Mau. Croftie, dean.
Chris. Carr Chis, esq; mayor.
Henry Bindon, esq; recorder.

"The above ball is one of a number fired from Park by king William's army; and lodged in that part of the wall of St. Mary's church, to which this school house is adjoined.

In opening a part of the church wall, in order to lay the roof of the Blue School, three cannon balls were found, eighteen and twenty four pounders, which occasioned the latter part of the above inscription.

Mrs. CRAVEN's ALMS HOUSE,

This lady was the widow of alderman Craven, and in her will, dated the 17th of January 1729, left a large house, or rather a castle, near West Watergate, for the reception of twelve poor widows, and forty shillings to be paid annually to each. The building was ruinous and has been thrown down, but the charity is well preserved by the bishop, the dean, and the mayor, who are the trustees. Mrs. Craven also bequeathed sixty pounds annually to the poor of Limerick, to be paid out of the lands of Strahane; forty shillings annually on Christmas Eve to the confined debtors
debtor's and prisoners, and forty shillings to the poor of the city parishes.

**REPAIRS of CHURCHES.**

Alderman Leonard, whose name we find in the common council in the year 1687, had a mortgage on the estate of Sir Donat O'Brien, for one thousand pounds, which he forfeited, and King William granted it for repairing the churches in Limerick, which had been damaged during the sieges. The income was withheld for some years, and a suit is now on foot for the recovery of it.

Bishop Smyth bequeathed the interest arising from six hundred pounds, to be paid annually to the poor of the city of Limerick.

**St. John's Parish.**

The ancestors of Lord Viscount Pery, bequeathed a ground rent of five pounds per annum, in trust to the church wardens of St. John's Parish, for the use of the poor. In the year 1731, Mrs. Elizabeth Pope the grand aunt of Lord Pery, died and left fifty pounds to her executor for the use of the poor of said parish. Mrs. Lucy Wilson also left fifty pounds to her executor for the same purpose. In June 1739, the Rev. Stacpole Pery, father of Lord Pery, left one hundred pounds for the same purpose; the interest of which sums, and the above ground rent, making in the whole, seventeen pounds per annum, has been duly distributed amongst the poor of St. John's parish. Mrs. Mary Pery also bequeathed twenty pounds to the poor of this parish.
Besides the fund left for this purpose by Mrs. Craven, the widow Virgin, by her will, dated the 30th of August 1732, bequeathed to the Dean of Limerick, in trust for the poor of St. Mary's parish, all her right and title to a house in Quay-lane, held by Mr. Simon Holland, at forty shillings per annum, in order to purchase bread, to be distributed on every Christmas day, and every Whitsunday. This charity was neglected several years, but was revived in the year 1772, by the Honourable Dean Crosbie.

The County Hospital.

In the year 1759, Edmond Sexten Pery, esq; granted a lot of ground in St. Francis's-abbey, for the purpose of a Work House; and the Summer Ailizes in the same year, the Grand Jury of the county granted one hundred pounds, which were expended on said work. In the year 1769, a further sum of two hundred pounds was presented by the county Grand Jury to the trustees, bishop Leslie, Edmond Sexten Pery and Sexten Baylee, esqrs. which sum we believe was transferred to the House of Industry, on the North strand.

In March 1759, Giles Vandeleur, esq; late of the city of Limerick, Surgeon, became tenant to four small houses, in the Little Island, and at his own expense, threw them into one for the reception of the sick and maimed; but the design not having been favoured with the attention of the publick, soon expired.
CHARITIES

On the fifth of January, 1761, a charity play was solicited by a few other gentlemen, to revive said charity, by the benefit arising from which, and from a charity sermon which was preached at the following assizes, and by a subscription which was opened at the same time, four beds were immediately erected; and the poor were attended gratis, by the several Physicians and Surgeons of the city.

As subscriptions encreased the beds were multiplied; and the benefit to the public was found to be so great, that a further subscription was opened for erecting a new building in a better situation, and capable of receiving a sufficient number of beds for the many who applied.

On the nineteenth of March, 1765, Edmond Sexten Pery, esq; conveyed to Charles Smyth, esq; and to the rev. Mr. Deane Hoare, as trustees to said charity, in perpetuity, at a pepper corn a year, a piece of ground in St. Francis's abbey, outside the town wall, with the shell of a building thereon; which was immediately rebuilt, and which is now capable of receiving upwards of forty beds.

The building happening to be in the county, and an act being made while it was in hand, in favour of County Hospitals, the subscribers (who were composed both of the county and city of Limerick, and a few out of the adjacent counties of Clare, Tipperary and Kerry,) at a general meeting previously advertised for that purpose, unanimously agreed that it should be converted into and filled a County Hospital,

FF 2.
to qualify it for the benefits arising from the said act.

On the 14th of October, 1766, pursuant to a notice advertised in the Dublin Journal and in Hoey’s Mercury, according to said act of parliament, John Martin and John Barret, esqrs. were appointed attending Physicians, and messrs. O’Halloran, Mahony and M’Knight, having each attended gratis, at the first institution, were (after having drawn lots for precedence) appointed attending Surgeons, in yearly rotation, and the rev. Mr. Deane Hoare, who was treasurer from the beginning, was requested to continue in the said office.

Since the institution of this charity; the treasurer has, without making any charge whatsoever for his expences,

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<th>Description</th>
<th>£</th>
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<tr>
<td>Received the sum of</td>
<td>10375</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursed the sum of</td>
<td>9612</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>763</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
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and has, with the approbation of the governors and governesses, lent out at interest the sum of six hundred pounds. The number and state of the patients are as follow,

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interns</td>
<td>5003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externs</td>
<td>54148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of patients</td>
<td>59151</td>
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Of
CHARITIES.

Of which number were cured 29428
Not cured - - - 654
Died - - - 230
Interns still under cure, - 28
Externs not reported - 28811

At a general quarterly Meeting, held on the fourth of January 1785.

The lord bishop of Limerick in the chair.

RESOLVED that the thanks of the governors and governessees, be publickly given to the rev. Mr. Deane Hoare, for his long and unwearied attention to the interest of the county of Limerick Hospitall.

WM. CECIL LIMERICK,
LUCY HARTSTONGE,
MAU. CROSBIE,
H. HARTSTONGE,
VERE HUNT,
WM. MAUNSELL THOS.
JOHN MARTIN, M. D.
SYL. O'HALLORAN,
STEPHEN ROCHE.

Extract from the Will of Dan. Hayes, esq; dated the 16th of July, 1767.

"I give and bequeath the residue, or overplus of my estates, real and personal, to the trustees and managers now in being, or to be hereafter nominated for the erecting an Hospitall for sick and wounded in Limerick; and in case no such Hospitall is founded, or begun to be founded within the space of ten years, the said residue to be paid into the university
university of Dublin, to augment the fizers fund." †

The charity however, never received any benefit from this bequest; for in a few years after Mr. Hayes's death, his heirs defended themselves in a suit with the governors, and a verdict was given in favour of the heirs.

THE CHARITABLE LOAN,

Was instituted on the 14th of May, 1770, by contributions, &c. from the following benevolent persons.

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<td>Lord Pery's family at different times,</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A bequest of Thomas Monfell, esq;</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto from Mrs. Jane Hill,</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Bury, esq; with the addition of Sir Henry Hartflonge, bart.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>The late Doctor Gore, bishop of Limerick,</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sir Henry Hartflonge, bart.</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The late John FitzGibbon, esq;</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Tunnadine,</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Catherine Bindon,</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sundry other donations.</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>9</td>
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Total 636 14 0

Since the commencement of this charity, five thousand one hundred tradesmen have been assisted by a loan of three guineas each, which they repay at one shilling and four pence

† See Hayes's works, page 11. See also his life in our Appendix.
Charities

Pence per week. Mrs. Mary Pery was the invariable friend and protectress of this useful institution, until the time of her death. The present managers are Mrs. D. Monsefell, and Mrs. Frances Pery, who bestow six guineas to the charity on every New-year's day. The only expence attending it is ten pounds per annum to a clerk or book-keeper.

The late bishop Averill, sensible of the advantages of such a loan, in a populous, trading city, generously gave two hundred pounds to establish one in Limerick, which sum it is hoped will be brought into circulation, agreeable to bishop Averell's intention.

The Poor House.

In the year 1772, the commons of Ireland having in their wisdom and humanity, taken into consideration the distresses of the poor, and knowing that too many idle vagrants had long been accustomed to frolick about the kingdom;—they passed an act for establishing Poor Houses and Work Houses in every county in the kingdom. They enabled county grand juries to present from two to four hundred pounds every year, and city grand juries to present from one to two hundred pounds every year. In consequence of this act, in the year 1773, the county and city grand juries of Limerick, presented five hundred pounds for this purpose, and bishop Gore, with a benevolent hand and a liberal heart, granted a piece of ground on the North Strand, at a pepper corn yearly for ever.
On the 10th of March 1774, Joseph Johns, esq; mayor, attended by the corporation, the city regalia, the governors and governoresses of the house,—who are incorporated by act of parliament—went in procession, and laid the first stone of this Fabric. The plan was designed and drawn by the rev. Mr. Deane Hoare; and it does honour to his taste and judgment. The building was superintended by Lant. Hill, esq; * It is light and handsome forming a large square, built in courses, ornamented in front with cut stone; contains sixteen large rooms, with an Infirmary at the foot of the garden in the rear of the house, and a number of cells for lunatics; to the latter of which purposes two hundred pounds were given by the late Doctor Edward Smyth, of the city of Dublin.

Human wisdom could not devise an institution of more general utility. It was the wholesome design of the legislature, that its happy effects should pervade the whole kingdom; and what could be better conceived, than to support the aged and feeble poor, to save helpless infants from perishing, to take care of lunatics, and prevent them from being a burden to their families, and to make the sturdy vagrant useful to society by his labour. Besides the fund presented by grand juries, and levied on the public, there have been many private contributions to the Poor House in Limerick. Besides Dr. Smyth's generous donation, several other persons gave twenty pounds, which entitled them to be perpetual governors, and other subscribers paid certain sums annually.

Every

* See the annexed Print of the Poor House.
Every man and every set of men should unite in supporting the county Poor Houses, as they are founded on a wise and rational plan, which if well attended to by men in power, no complaining will be heard in our streets. *

Since the building of this house in 1774, the sum of about 6000l. has been expended on it, and one thousand seven hundred and thirty-two poor persons have been admitted; two hundred and fifty-nine of whom being old and infirm, have died in the house, after having every attendance, necessary for people in their situation. The numbers now in the house are,

Aged and infirm, 41
Poor, able to work, 35
Lunatics, 12

88

Lancelot Hill, esq, has since its foundation, been the disinterested treasurer of this charity, and never would accept of any salary. Every humane person must wish that such a good institution will never want friends and protectors. And if, as our Saviour has assured

• The Irish gentry do not want humanity, but from a taste for luxury, or living beyond their incomes, they complain much of a small tax, while Englishmen of the same fortune, and in a much dearer country, pay four shillings in the pound of all their rents to support a Poor House in every parish. We are bound by every social feeling, to maintain those fellow creatures, who are doomed to poverty, and who through age or infirmity, are unable to maintain themselves.
red us,—"it is more blessed to give than to receive,"—we ought to look on those who want our assistance, as so many friends and benefactors, who come to do us a greater good, than they can receive; who come to exalt our virtue; to be witnesses of our charity, to be monuments of our love, to be our advocates with God, to appear for us at the day of judgement, and to help us to a blessedness greater than our donations can bestow on them.

**Limerick Society,**

For the Relief and Discharge of Persons Confined for Small Debts,

Was instituted by the rev. Deane Hoare, on the 23rd of September, 1775, and carried on, for some years, by donations and annual subscriptions; but, for some time past, by little more than casual donations.—Since its commencement, Mr. Hoare (the treasurer) by the payment of two hundred and eighteen pounds, thirteen shillings, and a halfpenny, enlarged ninety-four persons, whose debts amounted to seven hundred and fifty-three pounds nine shillings and eight pence, by which means such a number of poor persons were not only restored to their families and to the public, but they were at the same time exonerated from the balance of five hundred and thirty-four pounds, sixteen shillings and seven pence halfpenny, which they would never have been able to pay. Several others are at present under treaty for compositions.
CHARITIES

St. JOHN’S

OR,

THE FEVER AND LOCK HOSPITAL,

Was set on foot by fundry donations and subscriptions; the promoters of this useful charity obtained the use of the building, called St. John’s Barrack, near St. John’s Gate, which was formerly occupied by the army, and was opened for an Hospital on the 23d of February 1781. Since that time, to the 11th of January, 1786, the treasurer has received the sum of £829 13 10.

Disbursed, 736 16 3

Balance in hands, 92 16 1.

The number of patients received into the house, amounted to 546, of which number 466 were cured. The externs were 8887, making in the whole 9433. A proof that in a populous city, like Limerick, great numbers of poor persons constantly want the assistance of medicine, and this consideration ought to incite every benevolent mind to contribute to this most useful institution. The building being much decayed, was taken down in August 1785, and a new one has been erected on the foundation of the town wall, in an elevated, healthy situation. The house,—which was finished in less than a year, and cost above five hundred pounds,—measures ninety feet in front, is a plain, handsome structure composed of stone, containing twelve very roomy apartments, and is joined to the magazine near Gg 2. John’s.
John's gate, which is to be added to the Hospital. The architect was Mr. James Williams. It is also intended to build two houses fronting the main-street, the income of which will be a considerable addition to this excellent charity, which was founded and promoted, chiefly by Lord Pery's family.

After enumerating the charities in Limerick, we have to lament that any inattention of the trustees should suffer them even for a short time to cease. It is certain that the benevolent intentions of the donors have been interrupted, and that several good institutions lay dormant, until they were revived by bishop Gore, assisted by the rev. Mr. Deane Hoare, who with a clear head, and a good heart, has laboured much to bring every charitable bequest to light, to examine and state the accumulation of their funds, in order to recover the arrears due. Bishop Gore brought this matter into the house of Lords, and when they complimented his Lordship on his laudable conduct, he pointed to Mr. Hoare,—who attended the house for several weeks,—and said Mr. Hoare was the principal instrument in forwarding this public business. It is hoped that honest men will never be wanting in Limerick, to prevent the deprivations of human nature, or the dictates of avarice, from operating to the prejudice of any useful charity.